Resource List for Youth Court Programs

(Updated August 2006)

ILLINOIS YOUTH COURT ASSOCIATION

http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/youthadvocacy/iyca.html
The Illinois Attorney General's website includes the Illinois Youth Court Association's (IYCA) webpage. The IYCA page provides useful resources on how to start a teen court. The page includes links to information on the IYCA, Illinois youth court programs, IYCA publications and other resources. The IYCA page includes listings of all youth courts in the state by county and by program. In order to receive important program information and updates, new programs should contact Amy Zimmerman and request to be added to the IYCA listings. Additionally, all current programs should check to ensure that their program listing is accurate.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Amy Zimmerman by phone at 312-814-2823 or via email at azimmerman@atg.state.il.us.

The website includes three helpful power point presentations. These power points are an introduction to youth courts, the concept of Balanced and Restorative Justice, and how to integrate youth courts into school disciplinary programs.

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS IN ILLINOIS

Chicago based Alternatives, Inc. contracts with the Chicago Public Schools to run the CPS peer jury programs. For more information on Alternatives Restorative Justice/Peer Jury program, visit www.peerjury.com. For additional information contact Christine Agaiby at CAgaiby@alternativesyouth.org.

Interested Chicago Public Schools should contact Dr. Inez R. Drummond at idrummond@cps.k12.il.us to request an application.

In addition to Chicago based Alternatives, Inc., another resource for individuals interested in forming or learning more about a school based peer jury program is Mary Durnil. Mary runs a middle school based peer jury program in Decatur. Her program utilizes a peer jury model where the students run the sessions along with an adult facilitator. If Mary could be of assistance to you and your organization in starting or enhancing your program please contact her at MDurnil@dps61.org.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. Visit the CRF website at http://www.crf-usa.org/ for the most up-to-date information on current publications and resources.

Service Learning NETWORK

This sixteen-page Spring 2003 newsletter explores the notion that youth courts can serve as learning laboratories, not just for youthful offenders but for the entire student body. This publication is available for download at http://www.crf-usa.org/network/net9 3.pdf.

For other general information regarding Youth Courts and Service Learning visit:

http://www.crf-usa.org/network/net9_3.htm

http://www.crf-usa.org/network/network12 1/Net 12 1 leadart print

http://www.crf-usa.org/network/network12_1/Net_12_1_profiles.html

ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice. The Authority works to enhance the information tools and management resources of state and local agencies, and it serves as a statewide forum for criminal justice coordination, planning and problem solving. It is also responsible for research, information systems development, and administration of federal funds. Visit the ICJIA website at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm for up-to-date information on current publications and resources.

Implementing Balanced and Restorative Justice

The Authority created a series of guides designed to assist in the statewide promotion of balanced and restorative justice. BARJ is a philosophy of justice that can guide the work of individuals who deal with juvenile offenders, their victims, and the communities in which they live. Each publication provides profession-specific information on how the BARJ philosophy could be used across the juvenile justice system.

The goals of each guide are to promote compliance among those working in juvenile justice in Illinois with the state's policy on BARJ outlined in the Juvenile Court Act, improve the response to juvenile conflict and crime by increasing the knowledge and understanding of BARJ by juvenile justice professionals, agencies, communities, and their members; and then offer strategies, programs, and practices that incorporate the values and principles of BARJ.

To order a copies of these guides (free of charge), contact the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, or use the links provided by each publication to download them.

A Guide for Defense Attorneys

Download at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/BARJ/BARJdefense.pdf

A Guide for Juvenile Court Judges

Download at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/BARJ/BARJjudges.pdf

A Guide for Prosecutors

Download at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/BARJ/BARJprosecutors.pdf

A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers

Download at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/BARJ/BARJ%20law%20enforcement.pdf

A Guide for Juvenile Probation

Download at http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/BARJ/BARJProbation.pdf

NATIONAL YOUTH COURT RESOURCES

The following are some of the resources are offered by NYCC and affiliated organizations. Visit the NYCC website at www.youthcourt.net for the most up-to-date information on current publications and resources.

The NYCC's website includes a special section devoted to new youth court program coordinators. This page includes information about publications and resources as well as answers to some frequently asked questions. The site is an excellent starting point for new coordinators.

http://www.youthcourt.net/program coordinator.htm

PUBLICATIONS

National Youth Court Guidelines

By: Tracy M. Godwin, Michelle E. Heward and Tom Spina, Jr. (Published in 2000; 146 pages)

Developed by the National Youth Court Center, the *National Youth Court Guidelines* are designed to give youth courts direction for developing and operating effective programs for the ultimate purpose of increasing program accountability and integrity of the "youth court field." Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the guidelines that are recommended for that particular program area. Afterwards, each guideline is discussed in more detail. A rationale for each guideline, as well as tips for implementing each guideline, is included. At the conclusion of each chapter there is a section that identifies some outcomes youth court programs might reasonably expect if they adhere to the recommendations made in the guidelines.

To order a copy (free of charge) or download this publication online contact the National Youth Court Center at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/guidelines.htm

Peer Justice and Youth Empowerment: An Implementation Guide for Teen Court Programs

By: Tracy M. Godwin, David J. Steinhart, and Betsy A. Fulton (Published in 1996; Revised in 1998; 176 pages, plus appendices)

The American Probation and Parole Association, which operates the National Youth Court Center, developed *Peer Justice and Youth Empowerment: An Implementation Guide for Youth Courts* to provide program organizers with baseline information on developing, implementing, and enhancing teen court programs within their jurisdictions. Rather than endorsing one particular model of teen court, this manual provides program organizers with a general overview of issues to consider and guides them through a decision-making process for the implementation of a teen court program that fits local needs. Sample forms and other helpful resources also are included as supplementary materials.

Contact the National Youth Court Center to obtain a free copy or download it online at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/peer_justice.htm

Youth Court: A Community Solution for Embracing At-Risk Youth

By: Sarah S. Pearson and Sonia Jurich, American Youth Policy Forum (Published in 2005)

http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/Youth_Court-A_Community_Solution.pdf

Selected Topics on Youth Court: A Monograph

Editor: Tracy Godwin Mullins (Published in 2004, 118 pages)

Developed by the National Youth Court Center, this monograph features papers on the following six topics:

- Addressing Truancy in Youth Court Programs
- Underage Drinking and Other Substance Abuse: Opportunities for Prevention and Intervention by Youth Courts
- An Overview of School-Based Youth Court Program Design Options
- Building Culturally Relevant Youth Courts in Tribal Communities
- A Comparison of Statewide Youth Court Associations and Networking Groups
- Media Access Guidelines for Youth Courts

To order a copy (free of charge), contact the National Youth Court Center, or download a copy of this publication at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/monograph.pdf.

National Youth Court Program Directory/National Resources

This Publication provides the contact information for all active youth court programs listed in the NYCC database on March 8, 2006 as well as national resources for youth court programs.

To order a copy (free of charge), contact the National Youth Court Center, or download a copy of this publication at http://www.youthcourt.net/Publications/directory06.pdf.

Policymakers Support Youth Court Growth: Voices and Recommendations from the Field

By Sarah H. Pearson (Published in September 2004, 10 pages) This National Youth Court Center Policy Brief provides an overview of perspectives on youth court from local, state, and national policymakers. Information on the benefits of youth courts and tips for establishing youth courts are included.

To order a copy (free of charge), contact the National Youth Court Center, or download a copy of this publication at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/policybrief2004.pdf.

Youth Court: A Path to Civic Engagement

By: Sarah H. Pearson

(Published in September 2003, 8 pages)

This National Youth Court Center Policy Brief provides local, state, and federal policymakers with background information on youth courts as well as highlights current local and state policy in support of youth court. It also describes how youth court helps young people learn the value of actively participating as citizens to help make a difference in their communities.

To order a copy (free of charge), contact the National Youth Court Center, or, download a copy of this publication at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/Policy_brief_civic_engagement.pdf.

Street Law for Youth Courts: Educational Workshops)

By: Lena Morreale Scott

(Published 2001; Revised 2002)

Developed by Street Law, Incorporated, through a subcontract with the National Youth Court Center and OJJDP, Street Law for Youth Courts: Educational Workshops is designed as an information resource for youth courts when establishing their educational workshops/programs. These interactive lessons focus on the most frequent offenses for which youth are referred to youth court: theft, possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, vandalism, and traffic violations. The lessons include instructor's guides, lesson plans, and handouts for youth participants. The lessons are designed to initiate a law-related education program as a sentencing option for youth court offenders. The lessons also may be used to train youth court volunteers.

Download a copy of this publication at http://www.youthcourt.net/Publications/Training.htm

Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice

By: Margaret Fisher

(Published in March, 2002; 36 pages)

This Roadmap booklet, developed by the American Bar Association, Office of Justice Initiatives, through a subcontract with the National Youth Court Center and OJJDP, introduces youth courts to those who are interested in justice improvement. It examines the nature, structure, and benefits of youth courts and explores the roles played by a variety of government and community entities. It highlights examples of successful

youth courts throughout the United States – ones based in juvenile justice settings, community settings, and school settings. It spotlights unique innovations in youth courts and discusses statewide associations that play a role in supporting and networking youth courts within a state.

Contact the National Youth Court Center for a free copy. To order multiple copies of this Roadmap booklet contact: Office of Justice Initiatives, ABA, 750 North Lake shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60610-0892, Phone: (800) 285-2221, Fax: 312-988-5568, Email: abasvcctr@abanet.org. View online or download a complete copy at http://www.abanet.org/justice/youthcourtsroadmap.pdf

Youth Court Volunteer Training Package

By: Margaret E. Fisher (Published in 2001)

Based on the *National Youth Court Guidelines*, these instructional resources for youth court staff offer high-quality materials for training youth court volunteers. They provide trainers with the opportunity to model the qualities inherent to effective youth courts and to examine some of the universal moral principles and common codes of behavior that underlie legal systems - honesty, respect, responsibility, and compassion.

The complete training package includes:

- Guide for Trainers with lessons for all youth court models on topics such as the American justice system, balanced and restorative justice, conducting a hearing and deliberating on a disposition.
- Youth Volunteer Handbooks for adult judge, youth judge, youth tribunal, and peer jury program models.
- Changing Lives: America's Youth Court, a short video introducing the concept of youth courts.
- CD to tailor materials to local needs.

The Youth Volunteer Training Package materials may be purchased as a packaged set (\$45) or individual items can be ordered by contacting the American Bar Association Service Center at 800-285-2221. Discounted rates available for bulk orders on volunteer handbooks.

The Role of Restorative Justice in Teen Courts: A Preliminary Look

By: Tracy M. Godwin (published in 2001; 8 pages)

In March 2000, the American Probation and Parole Association convened a focus group to examine and discuss the role of restorative justice in teen court programs (also called youth and peer courts). The panel consisted of persons working actively in teen courts and persons working actively in more traditional restorative justice-based programs.

This paper provides a brief overview of restorative justice principles and addresses several key issues the focus group members identified that serve as a promising foundation from which teen courts can begin to move toward integrating more

restorative justice-based practices within their programs. Key issues discussed include how youth courts can rethink the role of victims and the community within their programs, how youth courts can alter the way that their proceedings and practices are structured, and how youth courts can rethink and redefine sentencing options so that they are based on the restorative justice philosophy.

To order a copy of this paper (free of charge), contact the National Youth Court Center, or download it at http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/article1.pdf.

Giving Back: A Community Service-Learning Manual For Youth Courts

By: Charles Degelman (Published in 2002; 92 pages)

Developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Chicago and Los Angeles, through a subcontract with the National Youth Court Center and OJJDP, this manual gives youth courts tools needed to apply school-based service-learning methods to community service dispositions for youth courts. The manual presents strategies that youth courts can use to introduce youth court defendants/respondents to basic concepts about community, community problems, and ways to address them, as well as skill- and awareness-building activities to introduce the community service learning projects and methods that youth courts can choose from when developing their community service component.

To download the manual, go to http://www.crf-usa.org/YouthCourt/GivingBack_home.html.

Impact of Teen Court on Young Offenders

By: Jeffrey A. Butts, Janeen Buck, and Mark B. Coggeshall (Published in April 2002; 48 pages)

This is the first report of findings from the Evaluation of Teen Courts Project, which was conducted by the Urban Institute and funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

The Evaluation of Teen Courts Project studied teen courts in four states: Alaska, Arizona, Maryland, and Missouri. Researchers measured pre-court attitudes and post-court recidivism among more than 500 juveniles referred to teen court for nonviolent offenses, such as shoplifting and vandalism. The study compared recidivism outcomes for teen court defendants with outcomes for youth handled by the regular juvenile justice system.

Download a copy of the report online at http://www.youthcourt.net/Publications/Training.htm

Teen Courts: A Focus On Research

By: Jeffrey A. Butts and Janeen Buck (OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin; published October 2000; 16 pages)

This bulletin provides information on characteristics of teen court programs, as gathered by the Evaluation of Teen Courts Project, and the operational and managerial problems they face. It also summarizes the evaluation literature on teen courts.

Download a copy of this bulletin at http://www.jbutts.com/pdfs/teencourtsfocus.pdf. To order a copy of this bulletin (free of charge), contact: Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, 1-800-638-8736, Reference number NCJ 183472.

Youth Court Training for Results

By: G. Dale Greenawald (Technical Assistance Bulletin No. 26, ABA; published 2004) http://www.abanet.org/publiced/tab26.pdf

Youth Court: A National Movement

By: Paula A. Nessel

(Technical Assistance Bulletin No. 17, ABA, published 2000)

2006 National Youth Court Month Action Kit

The 2006 National Youth Court Month Action Kit was developed by the National Youth Court Center to assist youth courts in planning, conducting, and promoting community projects and activities to be held during National Youth court Month. Sections of the *Action Kit* include tips for planning events and activities, suggested activities to commemorate National Youth Court Month, strategies for communicating more effectively with the media, and a listing of national youth court resources.

To download the Action Kit go to www.youthcourt.net/YC_Month_2006/overview_06.htm.

In Session

The NYCC quarterly newsletter, *In Session*, provides timely articles, interviews, and other information that are of interest to youth court programs.

View past issues of In Session online the NYCC website at http://www.youthcourt.net/Newsletter/overview.htm.

NYCC Update

The NYCC Update is a monthly electronic communiqué to keep subscribers informed of project activities and other youth court and juvenile justice related events.

View past issues of In Session online the NYCC website at http://www.youthcourt.net/NYCC_Update/overview.htm. To sign up to receive the NYCC Update, email nycc@csg.org.

VIDEOTAPE

"Getting the Most Out of the Deliberation Process"— Video

(Produced by the National Youth Court Center in April 2002; Video features two 20-minute segments; Facilitator Guide, 13 pages)

This video assists youth court programs in providing orientation on the deliberation process for youth who will be serving as jurors or judge panels. The video comes with a Facilitator Guide.

Contact the National Youth Court Center for a free copy of the video and facilitator guide.

WEBSITES

The National Youth Court Center maintains two websites to assist individuals interested in or currently involved with a youth court program. The NYCC's main website (www.youthcourt.net) contains information for program coordinators and others interested in the development or enhancement of youth court programs. The NYCC's youth website (www.ycyouthnet) is dedicated entirely to youth volunteers.

National Youth Court Center Website

www.vouthcourt.net

The National Youth Court Center's website provides valuable resource materials for youth court programs including downloadable copies of many youth court publications, a listing of youth courts in the United States, and information on training and technical assistance opportunities.

Youth Court Youth Volunteers

www.ycyouth.net

The National Youth Court Center developed a youth court youth volunteer website that complements the existing NYCC website. The website allows youth volunteers access to valuable resource materials and serves as a networking opportunity for youth involved in youth courts across the United States.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the numerous requests for technical assistance that the National Youth Court Center provides via email, telephone contact, and written correspondence, staff or consultants of APPA and NYCC have participated in more than 67 technical assistance events by presenting workshops at conferences and making presentations during or facilitating community meetings.

A range of technical assistance also is available through the National Youth Court Center designed to address issues specific to an individual jurisdiction's or youth court program's needs. To request technical assistance, contact the NYCC at 859-244-8193 or via email at nycc@csg.org.

Satellite Videoconferences

The National Youth Court Center and the American Probation and Parole Association have participated in a national satellite videoconference on youth court programs.

Youth Courts: A Legal Guide for Getting Involved

In November 2003, Justice Television Network conducted a satellite videoconference titled, "Youth Courts: A Legal Guide for Getting Involved." J. Robert Flores, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention discussed the U.S. Department of Justice's National Youth Court Initiative; John Duncan, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York and William C. Pericak, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Supervisor, Albany Office, Northern District of New York discussed the role of the U.S. Attorney's Office in youth courts; and John Grebert, former Chief of Police in Colonie, discussed the role of law enforcement in youth courts. Assistant Attorney General Deborah J. Daniels provided taped introductory remarks welcoming participants to the broadcast. Tracy Godwin Mullins, Director of the National Youth Court Center served as moderator for the broadcast.

This broadcast can be accessed online on the NYCC website at http://www.youthcourt.net/training_ta/2003/November_03_Videoconference.htm.

Audio Teleconferences/Webcasts

Making Evaluation Simpler for Youth Courts Using Performance-Based Measures On July 15, 2003, the NYCC broadcast, "Making Evaluation Simpler for Youth Courts Simpler Using Performance-Based Measures." This audio teleconference provides background information on the concept of using performance-based measures in evaluation efforts and describes how youth courts can develop performance-based measures to collect needed data for enhancing their programs and seeking funds.

The broadcast can be viewed online at http://www.youthcourt.net/training_ta/2003/2003_Audio_Teleconference_July_Download.htm.

Effective Strategies for Searching for Youth Court Funding and Writing Grants
On February 24, 2004, the NYCC broadcast, "Strategies for Locating Youth Court
Funding and Writing Effective Grants." The audio teleconference/webcast gives youth
court coordinators information on how to locate possible funding sources and plan for
program sustainability, as well as provides tips on how to write effective grants.

The broadcast can be viewed online at http://www.youthcourt.net/training-ta/2004/Feb04 Audioteleconference Downloading Info.htm.

Online Lessons

Links to these lessons are available in the online training section of the NYCC website at http://www.youthcourt.net/Online_Training/Overview.htm

Getting the Most Out of the Deliberation Process

The National Youth Court Center has created two Internet-based lessons designed to orient youth court volunteers on the deliberation process.

Preparing Your Case

This resource was designed to serve as a tool for youth attorneys to use in the preparation of their youth court cases. Topics covered include developing opening and closing statements, developing questions to ask during hearings, and interviewing respondents and witnesses.

Web Search: What do Our Laws and Policies Say About Underage Drinking? Street Law, Inc. has developed an online lesson to provide youth court administrators with another option for helping to teach the young people in their courts about the effects of underage drinking. The lesson is geared to middle school and high school students. While this resource was primarily developed to be used as sentencing options for respondents, the lesson also can be used to train youth court volunteers.

Youth Court Database

The National Youth Court Center maintains a comprehensive database that includes detailed information on how youth courts operate in the United States and makes customized searches and requests for information easier to fulfill for staff. The type of information that can be accessed from the database include the percentage of programs that operate the various youth court program models, the types of offenses that youth courts will accept, the types of sentencing options provided by youth courts, the number of persons who volunteer for youth court, and the types of agencies that administer youth court programs.

If you have a question about the way youth courts operate in other cities and states, contact the NYCC at 859-244-8193 or via email at nycc@csg.org to request a search of the database.

Posters

The National Youth Court Center has designed a new poster and slogan that will serve as the national image for youth courts. Each local youth court registered with the National Youth Court Center will receive 10 larger sized posters in September 2006. A smaller-size version of the poster will be available for download on-line at www.youthcourt.net.

Potential Funding and Volunteer Aid for Your Youth Court

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are committed to programs that improve and promote the welfare of children.

In 1997, the National Headquarters of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary adopted a resolution to place youth courts within their National Children and Youth Program and to encourage youth court involvement throughout the nation. A year later, the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary of Illinois adopted a similar resolution, focusing on promoting youth courts around the State.

Citizens interested in starting a youth court in their community or with existing youth courts should contact their local American Legion Auxiliary Post to inquire about funding opportunities and volunteer assistance.

To locate a post in your area, contact your city or township authorities, or contact the American Legion Auxiliary in the state:

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois P.O. Box 1426 Bloomington, Illinois 61702 (309) 663-9366

Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice (IBARJ) List Serve

The IBARJ list serve is for those interested in learning more about restorative justice. Periodically, participants are sent information regarding upcoming trainings and other networking opportunities. Questions posted by participants are answered by other members of the list serve. To join the list serve, send an email with "subscribe to IBARJ list serve" in the subject line to sallywolf@illicom.net. Participants are able to remove themselves from the list serve at anytime by sending an email to the same address.

Resources for After-school Snacks and Suppers

Nourish Their Bodies, Feed Their Minds: Funding Opportunities for Meals and Snacks Provided by After-school Programs in Illinois By Illinois After-school Partnership (Published in 2006)

This free guide is designed to help after-school and summer program providers Illinois access federal funding through the Child Nutrition Programs. This guide offers information on eligibility guidelines, local examples, resources on how to enroll, and much more. To order one or more printed copies of the guide, please email iasp@icvp.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and number of copies you wish to receive.

In addition, a PDF version of this guide can be downloaded at http://www.illinoisafterschool.net/downloads/IL_FRAC_Guide.pdf.